GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1775
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
TEA PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN STATES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of tea produced in Southern States;

(b) the total production of such tea in these States during the last three years;

(c) the demand of such tea in the international market and particularly Nilgiri tea as compared to the tea produced in Darjeeling, Assam and Sikkim; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of tea produced in Southern States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): There are three types of tea, viz. Cut-Tear-Curl (CTC), Orthodox and Green teas produced in the Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The total production of such teas in these States during the last three years, is as follows:

(Quantity in Million Kgs.)

Types of tea produced	2002	2001	2000
CTC Tea	162.4	167.4	170.3
Orthodox Tea	31.2	34.8	35.3
Green Tea	0.8	0.9	0.6
Total	194.4	203.1	206.2

(c) On an average more than 50% of the teas produced in Southern India are exported every year. Since teas are exported both in unblended and blended forms, it would not be possible to indicate the export of teas by origin.

(e) Tea Board, under its Plan schemes, provides both financial and technical assistance for improving the productivity and quality of teas produced in the country, including South India. Financial assistance is provided for activities like replanting, extension planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc. Tea Board is also implementing a medium term export strategy to boost the exports of Indian tea. This includes providing financial assistance to the tea exporters towards meeting part of the cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight and value addition. In addition, Tea Board is conducting promotional campaigns and providing support to the exporters in promoting Indian tea in various key markets.